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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-eighth session
Geneva, 1 – 12 October 2001
Item 1 (b) of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the forty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   (d) Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Board

2. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Financial stability: reform of the international financial architecture and the role of regional cooperation

3. The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:

   (a) Outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
   (b) Towards the development goals defined in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

4. UNCTAD's contribution to the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Economic development in Africa: performance, prospects and policy issues

5. Technical cooperation activities:

   (a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
   (b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

6. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   (a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries: Report of the Fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts
   (b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-fourth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

7. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Preparatory process for the Mid-term Review in 2002
   (b) Review of the calendar of meetings
   (c) Membership of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Trade and Development Board
   (d) Membership of the Working Party for the year 2002
   (e) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the report.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Procedural matters

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

(a) Election of officers

In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall consist of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur (i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended).

In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the President of the Board for the forty-eighth session shall be a representative of one of the States in List A (Africa) and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List C. The 10 Vice-Presidents shall therefore be as follows: 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 4 from List B; 1 from List C; and 2 from List D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

The provisional agenda for the current session is reproduced in section I above.

Organization of work

In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way that no two meetings take place at the same time. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly that of small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations.

Establishment of sessional committees

In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. The proposed allocation of items between the plenary and sessional committees, in accordance with rule 13, is indicated in annex I of this document.

Schedule of meetings

The table in annex II below shows the overall timetable for the two-week period. It is understood that this schedule should be flexible to take into account developments during the session.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials

In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Board

The draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Board will be submitted by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this to the Consultations of the President of the Board with the Bureau and Coordinators.

In-session documentation

Item 2 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Financial stability: reform of the international financial architecture and the role of regional cooperation

Flexible exchange rates among the major reserve currencies, greater capital account openness and large-scale private capital flows have transformed the way the international financial system works. The results have not always been the ones predicted or desired. Persistent currency misalignments, heightened short-term volatility and more frequent financial crises suggest that the global reach of financial markets has stretched the ability of multilateral financial institutions to maintain global monetary and financial stability. Despite extensive discussion of how to reform the international financial architecture after the Asian crisis, little progress has been made in establishing effective global arrangements in some areas of concern to developing countries. This item will consider the role of the multilateral financial institutions in prevention and management of crises, the elements needed for a more stable system of exchange rates and the scope for regional arrangements in bringing about greater stability.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2001 *Trade and Development Report, 2001*, and *Overview*

Item 3 The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:

(a) Outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. In the Brussels Declaration, participants in the Conference stated their determination to make progress towards the global goals of poverty eradication, peace and development for the least developed countries. The Programme of Action articulates policies and measures by LDCs on the one hand and their development partners on the other to reverse the marginalization of LDCs and to promote sustained economic growth and

sustainable development of LDCs and their beneficial integration into the world economy. The Conference acknowledged that success in attaining the objectives of the Programme of Action will depend critically on the effective functioning of the arrangements for its implementation, follow-up, monitoring and review at the national, regional and global level.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations was requested by the Conference to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session his recommendations for an efficient and highly visible follow-up mechanism (A/CONF.191/11, para. 116).

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action and decided to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action at its fifty-sixth session.

In the context of the stated desire of the Conference to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in the work of UN and other multilateral organizations, the Trade and Development Board was invited to consider converting its Sessional Committee on LDCs into a Standing Committee in order to address, within the mandate of the Board, substantive issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action (A/CONF.191/11, para. 113). In the agreed conclusions adopted by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget at its resumed thirty-seventh session and endorsed by the Board at its twenty-seventh executive session, it is *inter alia* foreseen that the Board will mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action within the work programme of UNCTAD, as well as in the intergovernmental process (TD/B/WP/L.100, para. 5).

The secretariat will inform the Board of progress to date in the implementation of the elements of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action that fall within the purview of UNCTAD. The Board may also wish to consider the proposal addressed to it by the Conference concerning its Sessional Committee.

Documentation

A/CONF.191/12	The Brussels Declaration
A/CONF.191/11	The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

(b) Towards the development goals defined in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The central policy challenge emanating from the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries will be how to construct effective partnerships between national development strategies and international cooperation with a view to reducing poverty in the least developed countries. Following the substantive debates on development problems and goals at the Conference, the Trade and Development Board is expected to look at, as the starting point of the process, where the least developed countries and their development partners now stand in relation to the development goals defined in the Programme of Action. In doing so, the Board may wish to examine the current situation both in terms of the levels of achievement so far and the rate of progress observed, as well as to discuss technical issues

of how to measure the progress made in the coming years towards the achievement of these development goals.

Since this is the year of Conference, the Board will be focusing on initiating the review process as described above. The annual *Least Developed Countries Report 2001* will cover broader development issues on the subject of international cooperation, development strategy and poverty reduction, and will be issued in December 2001 so as to reflect the concerns raised in the new Programme of Action adopted in Brussels at the end of May.

Documentation

TD/B/48/14 The development goals of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: Towards a set of indictors to monitor progress

Item 4 UNCTAD's contribution to the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Economic development in Africa: performance, prospects and policy issues

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 55/182 of 18 January 2001, requested the Secretary-General to ensure the initiation by UNCTAD of a contribution to the preparatory process for the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the UN-NADAF in the areas falling within its mandate for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifth-sixth session. In the light of the above, the secretariat has undertaken an analysis of the implementation of the UN-NADAF for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board at its forty-eighth session and the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session in a document entitled "Economic development in Africa: performance, prospects and policy issues".

Documentation

TD/B/48/12 Economic development in Africa: performance, prospects and policy issues

Item 5 Technical cooperation activities:

(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2000, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, in particular progress made on implementation of the UNCTAD X Plan of Action (TD/386) and the decisions of the Board at its forty-seventh session regarding technical cooperation. The Board may also wish to consider a number of other issues, such as: measures to exploit effectively the interrelation between policy analysis, intergovernmental deliberations and operational activities; the planning and execution of technical cooperation activities in the light of available resources, and in this respect, the annual indicative plan of technical cooperation programmes; cooperation with other organizations; progress made regarding the implementation of paragraph 166 of the UNCTAD X Plan of Action; work carried out on guidelines on

cooperation with the private sector; and developments regarding the financial sustainability of certain technical cooperation programmes. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget which, at its thirty-eighth session, to be held from 17 to 21 September 2001, will, *inter alia*, conduct a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2000. The secretariat report to the Board will contain information on the above issues.

Documentation

TD/B/48/5- TD/B/WP/139	Review of technical cooperation activities
TD/B/48/5/Add.1- TD/B/WP/139/Add.1	Annex I -Review of activities undertaken in 2000 (English only)
TD/B/48/5/Add.2- TD/B/WP/139/Add.2	Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/48/8 TD/WP/142	Indicative Plan of UNCTAD's Technical Cooperation activities for 2002
TD/B/48/8/Add.1- TD/WP/142/Add.1	Annex (English only)

(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

In line with the 1998-2001 United Nations medium-term plan and paragraph 167 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, the UNCTAD secretariat is intensifying its work, in accordance with its mandate, to assist the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy-making and management pertaining to international trade, investment and related services. The secretariat has reported annually to the Trade and Development Board on its programme of technical assistance in this area (most recently in 2000 in document TD/B/47/5). The secretariat reports have also included updates on Palestinian economic and trade performance and presentations of the findings of related policy analysis research by the secretariat.

Pursuant to the provisions of the biennial work programme, the secretariat has prepared its latest report to the Trade and Development Board on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people. The first section of the report reviews the impact of the recent crisis on the Palestinian economy and relevant policy responses in the context of long-standing challenges and new pressures. This provides the backdrop for the review in the second section of the report of progress in technical assistance projects under way or completed by the secretariat since mid-2000, as well as unfunded proposals for technical cooperation awaiting implementation and the secretariat's contribution to inter-agency coordination in this area.

In taking note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat, the Board may wish to highlight the need to mobilize additional extra budgetary resources to implement priority technical assistance proposals by the UNCTAD secretariat. In accordance with General

Assembly decision 47/445, and as in previous years, the Board may, in its report to the GA on its forty-eighth session, draw the Assembly's attention to the deliberations under this item.

Documentation

TD/B/48/9	Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

Item 6 Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries: Report of the Fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts

Paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 54/199, on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries, invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the resolution.

Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 54/199, in paragraph 12, requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries with representatives of donor countries, financial and development institutions in 2001. The Meeting was held under the auspices of UNCTAD from 30 July to 3 August 2001 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Meeting, endorse its conclusions and recommendations, and thereafter submit these conclusions and recommendations, together with the progress report by the UNCTAD secretariat, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

Documentation

TD/B/48/13	Progress report by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/48/10- TD/B/LDC/AC.1/18	Report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, New York, 30 July -3 August 2001

(b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-fourth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The thirty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in Vienna from 25 June to 13 July 2001. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/48/11 Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 7 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Preparatory process for the mid-term review in 2002

At its twenty-fourth executive session, the Trade and Development Board decided to "conduct in the second quarter of the year 2002 a mid-term review of the work of UNCTAD, based on the indicators of achievement agreed to in the medium-term plan (2002-2005)". The Board also decided to "review the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery" in the context of this mid-term review. The Trade and Development Board is expected, at its forty-eighth session, to launch the preparatory process for the mid-term review. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in consultation with the President of the Board, will make recommendations on the calendar and design of the preparatory process.

In-session documentation

(b) Review of the calendar of meetings

The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2001 and an indicative calendar for 2001.

Documentation

TD/B/INF.195/Rev.1 and Corr.1 UNCTAD Calendar of Meetings

(c) Membership of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Trade and Development Board

The Board will have before it the updated membership list of UNCTAD and the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/INF.196 Membership of UNCTAD and the Board

(d) Membership of the Working Party for the year 2002

The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for the year 2002 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

In-session documentation

(e) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 8 Other business

Item 9 Adoption of the report

In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.

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Annex I

ALLOCATION OF ITEMS

Plenary

1(a) Election of officers
1(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
1(c) Adoption of the report on credentials
1(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Board

2. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Financial stability: reform of the international financial architecture and the role of regional cooperation

5(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
5(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

6(a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries: Report of the fifth meeting of governmental experts
6(b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-fourth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

7(a) Preparatory process for the Mid-term Review in 2002
7(b) Review of the calendar of meetings
7(c) Membership of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Board
7(d) Membership of the Working Party for the year 2002
7(e) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the report.

Sessional Committee I

3. The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:

(a) Outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
(b) Towards the development goals defined in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Sessional Committee II

4. UNCTAD's contribution to the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Economic development in Africa: performance, prospects and policy issues.

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
(1 – 12 October 2001

First week	Monday 1/10	Tuesday 2/10	Wednesday 3/10	Thursday 4/10	Friday 5/10
10.00 a.m.	PLENARY Item 1(a) & (b) Statement of SG of UNCTAD	INFORMALS Item 2	PLENARY Item 2	PLENARY Items 5(a), (b), 6(a), & (b)	SCI Item 3
3.00 p.m.	PLENARY Item 2	INFORMALS Item 2	INFORMALS Item 2	BUREAU Items 1(c) & (d)	SCI Item 3

Second week	Monday 8/10	Tuesday 9/10	Wednesday 10/10	Thursday 11/10	Friday 12/10
10.00 a.m.	SCI Item 3	SCII Item 4	SCII Item 4	BUREAU Items 7(a) & (b)	PLENARY Items 1(c), (d), 7(a), (b), (c) & (d)
3.00 p.m.	SCI Item 3	SCII Item 4	SCII Item 4	SCI – Item 3 SCII - Item 4 (closing)	PLENARY Reports of SCI & SCII - Closing of other items - Adoption of the report